

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-10 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sun et al. (US 6,600,085). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Invention

Applicants are claiming an adhesive bandage comprising a wound contacting pad, where the wound contacting pad comprises from about 5% to about 30% by weight of absorbent fibers and from about 70% to about 95% by weight of synthetic non-absorbent fibers (Page 13, ll. 21-26). The absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, and wood pulp, and the synthetic non-absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyamides and polyester (Page 10, l. 22 – Page 11, l. 7). The nonwoven fabric has a first major surface and a second major surface (Page 16, ll. 4-9, Page 23, ll. 21-24); and an apertured film (Page 3, ll. 23 – Page 8, ll. 4, Page 21, ll. 16-20, Page 22, ll. 13-14, Page 23, ll. 2) secured to at least one major surface of the nonwoven fabric (Page 10, ll. 4 – Page 11, ll. 25, Page 12, ll. 16-17, Page 14, ll. 11-13). An apertured film is secured to one surface of the nonwoven fabric. The absorbent fabric has a density of from about 0.01 g/cc to 0.05 g/cc (Page 3, ll. 5-7, Page 12, ll. 17-20, Page 13, ll. 21-24, and Page 15, ll. 27-28) and basis weight of from about 30 gsm to about 150 gsm (Page 12, ll. 2-4).

Regarding Sun, Applicants respectfully submit that selection of the particular ranges of absorbent and non-absorbent fibers as claimed by Applicants, coupled with a selection of a particular range of fabric density, is not routine experimentation. The Office Action maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized a number of characteristics and/or benefits associated with selection of specific ranges, etc., but fails to provide any teachings or information from the prior art to support such a position. If there is information in the prior art upon which the Office Action relies to support such a position, Applicants respectfully request that such information be identified on the record.

Assuming arguendo that the claims are considered to be *prima facie* obvious, and Applicants respectfully submit that they are not, as noted at page 12, lines 16-22, page 13, line 21 through page 14, line 9, and at pages 29 and 30, including Tables 1 and 2, fabrics as claimed by Applicants exhibit synergistic properties of absorbency, coupled with reduced removal force. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that these synergistic properties are sufficient to overcome a claim of *prima facie* obviousness.

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Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 10 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Applicants further earnestly request a Notice of Allowance with respect to the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

**/William K. Wissing/**  
William K. Wissing Reg. No. 34,757

Attorney for Applicants  
Johnson & Johnson  
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza  
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003  
(732) 524-6201  
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